

# LOCAL I-S NEWS

*for department store workers*

VOL. XII, No. 10

MAY 15, 1961



HARRY VAN ARSDALE, JR., head of the N. Y. C. Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and Pres. Sam Kovenetsky, chairman of the council's Camp Committee, present a donation to Rev. Anthony F. Logato for the summer camp program of the Italian Board of Guardians. Looking on are George A. Dickinson, president of Big Brothers; Michael Sampson, business manager of Local 1-2, Utility Workers; and George Meyers of the Boys' Athletic League.

## 350 Union Counsellors Graduate At Community Services Institute

More than 350 union members received certificates at a luncheon on May 6 at ceremonies marking their completion of union counseling classes. The classes, covering problems of youth, health, unemployment, public welfare, consumers and retirement, were conducted by the Community Services Committee of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. The graduation was part of an all-day institute, which also featured panel discussion on subjects of interest to New York City residents. Resource consultants on the panels were Dr. Ray Trussell, commissioner of the Department of Hospitals; George H. Fowler, commissioner of the State Department of Labor, and other state, city and community officials.

The luncheon, chaired by Michael Sampson, business manager of Local 1-S, Utility Workers Union, and chairman of the Community Services Committee, had as guest speakers Dr. Howard A. Frank, director of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University Medical Center; Dr. S. Charles Franco, medical director of Consolidated Hospital, and Harry Van Arsdale, president of the Central Labor Council.

labor movement has a responsibility to promote higher living standards and to build a better community, he declared, and if the present political alignments cannot bring about these goals, then labor and like-minded people must make their voices heard.

The political parties never consult labor on candidates and they rarely consult labor after the campaign, but the trade unions are expected to carry the ball on getting out the vote, he said.

Dr. Rusk spoke of the great need for better medical care for all people and commended the labor movement for being in the forefront of this fight.

"What we have now is a vicious circle," he said. "Sickness makes people poor and poverty makes people sick. It's about time we broke out of this circle."

Other speakers during the day were John Burnell, and Peter Crescenti, associate chairman and secretary, respectively, of the Community Services Committee; Michael Mann, AFL-CIO regional director, and Patrick Kelly, Charles J. Garrahan, James L. O'Hara, Jack Ossofsky and John J. Flanagan, subcommittee chairman who headed discussion panels.

Van Arsdale was recipient of the committee's first annual award for service to the community and Austin Perlow, business and labor editor of the Long Island Press, was cited for his cooperation with the objectives of the committee. Perlow is a member of the American Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO.

## Kovenetsky Appears On Radio Program

The continuing investment of union funds in housing is helping substantially to meet the existing needs, Pres. Sam Kovenetsky declared in a radio interview on May 11, 1961. But a great deal remains to be done which will involve the financial aid of the federal and state governments, he declared.

Pres. Kovenetsky appeared on "Labor Press Conference," broadcast over WNYC on Thursdays at 6:00 P.M., in his capacity as co-chairman of the N.Y.C. AFL-CIO Housing Committee.

The Local 1-S leader noted that every union-sponsored cooperative housing project has been oversubscribed by New Yorkers able and willing to make the initial investments.

The extent of the continuing needs for low- and middle-income housing can also be gauged by over 5,000 requests for a booklet describing co-operative housing, recently published by the city's AFL-CIO Housing Committee.

Interviewing Pres. Kovenetsky were Leon Stein, editor, ILGWU "Justice;" Sam Samuels, ACWA "Advance" and Austin Perlow, "Long Island Press." Dick Pyatt, of the WNYC staff, acted as moderator.

## Here Comes the 1-S Raffle: For COPE and Scholarships

### N. Y. School Teachers Expect Vote in June On Union Representation

Thirty-six thousand N. Y. C. teachers are expected to vote during June in the largest union representation election in many years.

Following long-continuing demands by the United Federation of Teachers, the election will be held if the city's Board of Education approves a report by a five-member collective bargaining commission. Members of the commission include N.Y.C. AFL-CIO president Harry Van Arsdale, Jr.; Pres. David Dubinsky of the Garment Workers; and Pres. Jacob Potofsky of the Clothing Workers.

The Central Labor Council has issued an appeal to affiliated unions to financially assist the teachers' group to organize the teachers in some 900 public schools.

The local chapter of the National Education Association, in the meanwhile, has been bitterly attacking the teacher's union using a "right-to-work" approach to city teachers and declaiming against the "octopus of union labor framework." The NEA, which is opposed to collective bargaining, has viciously attacked the three labor members of the collective bargaining commission, in language not heard in New York for many years.

The expected union representation election represents the first opportunity in a major American city for public school teachers to win collective bargaining rights.

In a letter to New York unions, Council president Van Arsdale wrote, "This is one election the UFT cannot afford to lose. Our children deserve union teachers."

### U. S. Credit Unionists On the Rise in '60

Membership of credit unions in the U.S. went up to a total of 12,043,655 during 1960, a rise of 781,072 over the previous year, according to the Credit Union National Association.

Other CUNA figures revealed that U.S. credit unions currently have nearly \$5 billions in savings, almost \$4.4 billions in outstanding loans, and \$5.6 billions in total assets.

The Local 1-S Credit Union, a CUNA member, is happy to assist members with a planned savings program, or loans repayable at the convenience of the member.

Union Executive Board members and shop stewards are about to ask every Local 1-S'er—and more besides—to make a donation in a giant raffle—the first ever sponsored by this Union.

Purpose of the raffle will be to support two major Local 1-S activities: COPE and a new program of providing one or more college scholarships to Union members and the children of members.

Substituting for the annual COPE drives of previous years, the raffle will not only underwrite the Union's political education activities, but provide an entirely new dimension in Local 1-S community services: the award of scholarships.

Hundreds of unions throughout the country have initiated similar scholarship programs. Among New York unions which do so are Local 3, IBEW, the Garment Workers and the Men's Clothing Workers.

Scholarships provided by labor groups help bright youngsters acquire an education in many diverse fields ranging from labor relations to the choice of the student.

However, it is the intention of Local 1-S to enable Local 1-S members or their children to pursue studies in trade unionism, in both its collective bargaining aspects and as a force in the community and nation.

A distinguished committee of professors and educators will be set up to assist in administering and granting the scholarships.

Three handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners of the raffle. The donation will be \$2.00 for each ticket. Participants will have a chance to win a 15-day trip to Mexico, with all transportation, hotel and tour expenses paid, or the cash equivalent.

Second prize will be a weekend for two at a famous resort hotel in Atlantic City.

Third prize will be a matched set of men's or women's luggage.

The drawing will take place at the annual Fall Stewards' Conference, although of course a person need not be present to win.

"There can't possibly be any losers in this raffle," declared Pres. Sam Kovenetsky. "First of all, there will be three winners of wonderful prizes. But even if a 1-S'er doesn't win one of these, he will know that his donation is helping valuably to advance our political education program and give a bright, deserving youngster a lift in getting a college education."



# U. S. Economy Seen Running 'Fast Enough to Stand Still'

By Saul Miller  
Editor, "AFL-CIO News"

A grim picture of the American economy running "only fast enough to stand still" in 1961 and facing high unemployment at the end of 1962 has been painted by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

The prospect of a 6 to 7 per cent rate of unemployment at the end of 1961, the committee declared, is based on the assumption of prompt enactment of Pres. Kennedy's legislative program and "substantial increase in expenditures by state and local governments."

The committee specifically called for a Treasury Dept. review of the tax structure "with a view to recommending a downward revision of taxes—not a temporary tax cut—and that it make further periodic reviews for the same purpose every five years."

A Republican minority and a Democratic senator dissented from the majority views, the GOP members declaring that the country is recovering from the 1960-61 recession with "little direct help from the government" and expressing skepticism that "greater federal investment in education, health, housing, research and resources development will accelerate the nation's long-term economic growth."

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) said he dissented with reluctance but felt that the report "underestimates two big economic problems facing America . . . the enormity of the unemployment dilemma in its full long-term significance . . . [and] neither the Administration nor this report has even come close to providing the answer . . ."

Economic losses in 1960 the report termed "staggering." If unemployment during the year had been maintained at 4 per cent instead of the actual rate of 5.6 per cent there would have been an increase in output of \$30 to \$35 billion. The loss of this output is equal to \$500 per American household.

As a first step toward economic recovery and growth, the committee recommended prompt enactment of the Kennedy program. It also called for:

- Federal Reserve monetary policies to help reduce unemployment to a 4 per cent rate by bringing down long-term interest rates.
- Legislation to provide for a limited time, federal grants on a matching basis to local communities for public works projects that

can be started within 90 days and finished in 12 months.

- Large-scale retraining of workers, and where necessary relocating them, including a new kind of "GI Bill" for all workers displaced by technological improvements, plus incentives to business firms to establish schools to retain workers about to be displaced. Also, permanent liberalization of the unemployment insurance system and coordination of state employment agencies into an "effective national system."

- Development of retirement and recreational areas for retired workers.

- More flexible private pension systems.

- Creation of a capital bank for municipal securities to reduce the interest burden on state and local governments.

- A federal capital budget.
- Accelerated enforcement of the anti-trust laws.

## Health Plan Note To Members

Health Plan claims by members for anesthesia MUST accompany the claim for surgical benefits. GHI has informed the Union Office it will not honor such anesthesia claims without proof of surgery.

Members are also asked to make sure that, on their claim forms, the patient's section is filled out completely and accurately.

# Pharmacy Executive 'Spanked' For Rude Remarks To Salesclerks

In the Macy Pharmacy Dept., there has been a continuing state of confusion since the management instituted a series of innovations. And, as sometimes happens, the blame for the confusion is put on the clerks.

On April 5, the asst. department manager, Mr. Hyman, took it upon himself to say to Local 1-S member Josephine Pearson that the prescription clerks were "incompetent." Through the prompt filing of a grievance and immediate action by the 1st Floor committee, the union grievance machinery was set into motion, and Mr. Hyman was duly and properly reprimanded.

On the day in question, it was brought to Mr. Hyman's attention that a backlog of unfilled prescriptions was building up. Ignoring the problem so far as any prescription clerk could discover, Mr. Hyman did nothing to meet the problem. And the backlog continued to increase.

Some customers gave up in disgust after waiting a half hour or

longer, and left the store without having their prescriptions filled.

Mr. Hyman criticized the prescription clerks for the "mess," and made the impudent remark mentioned above.

He continued his "high-and-mighty" manner in his reply to the grievance, writing, "For whatever personal reasons of her own she (Sister Pearson) has demonstrated an inability to follow through." It was to her that he had made his remarks.

At that point the floor committee stepped in, presented the facts to division superintendent Sullivan and convinced him of the injustice of these criticisms and the uncalled for rudeness of Mr. Hyman's remarks.

In his response Mr. Sullivan made clear that Mr. Hyman did not use "good judgment" and that any criticism that is necessary will be done without "imprudent remarks."

The floor committee consists of Jack Steinman, Louella Gambler and Rex Meza.

## LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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RWDSU, AFL-CIO

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**OOPS, MY HAND SLIPPED!** A certain amateur photographer, who will be nameless, let her hand tilt, but nevertheless caught this view of some warmhearted people celebrating the forthcoming marriage of Mollie Norcia (second from left), of the Liquor Dept. The Liquor Dept. celebration was held at the Union office on May 11. Mollie has—you'll never believe this!—32 years of service. Her prospective bridegroom is at left. Congratulations and the best of luck!

## Letters to the Editor

UNITED OPTICAL WORKERS UNION  
LOCAL 408, IUE, AFL-CIO  
May 2, 1961

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful cooperation and response that you have given us in our struggle against Sterling Optical Company, Inc., in New York, Hempstead and Cross County Shopping Center, Yonkers.

We have won a smashing victory for the 110 people involved.

Certainly, this could not have been obtained without your help. It is the combination of strength that brought about our sweet victory and the termination of our strike, which lasted only two weeks.

Fraternalty yours,  
/s/ SEBASTIAN J. REBALDO  
Business Manager

Please accept my thanks for your lovely card and gift. It makes a person feel so good to know they are in such a wonderful organization. And please allow me

to say thanks for the nice settlement that you people got for me. May God Bless you all.

MARGARET SMITH  
250-54

I wish to thank Local 1-S and Health Consultant for their cooperation and benefits received through our Health Plan during my illness. Thanks to the Social Services Committee for the lovely gift and card and to my co-workers and friends at Macy's for the get-well cards and good wishes, for calls and plants which I received at home and in the Hospital. It was nice being remembered: I am feeling much better now. May the good Lord Bless you all and your wonderful work.

ANN MCFAYDEN  
MC 703

I wish to thank Local 1-S for their aid and thoughtful cooperation after my recent accident. It is very comforting to know that hospitalization, surgery and anesthesia were so well taken care of. Thanks too, to Social Service for the beautiful gift I received and to my many friends at Flatbush for their cards and phone calls.

DINAH PRENSKY  
F42-53

I want to say thank you for the nice settlement we received through you and Local 1-S. Also thanks to all the negotiating Board for a fine job well done. Sure thought we were going to walk the bricks, but thanks to you we didn't have to. Thanks again for everything. God Bless you and keep you always.

L. YOUNG  
C 3908

You have restored my faith. I was sure I hadn't missed 3 meetings but since I could not find all my receipts for attending meetings, I paid the fines. But do you realize how nice it was to find the check in the mail tonight. There are many times, during sickness especially that I have been grateful to you. I thought it about time I let you know.

JEAN BRONACH  
CDT 2

Please accept my thanks again for your lovely card and gift sent me by the Social Services Committee.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness so very much and hope to be back with all my friends real soon.

CARMEN HEALEY  
47-1601

My sincerest thanks for your card and perfume which came this morning. It is good to be remembered in such a nice way.

My thanks too, to all my friends at the store who have remembered me with cards and good wishes. They have helped a lot. Hope to be back soon to thank them all personally for their kindness during my illness.

ACNES HILLY  
65-17



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# Israeli Labor Spokesman Briefs Local 1-S Tourists

Gregory Bardacke, representative in America of Histadrut (the Israeli Federation of Labor) gave a graphic picture of that labor group's major importance in that country to a fascinated audience of Local 1-S'ers.

The presentation was made to a special meeting of Union tourists who will be visiting Israel, as well as Italy and Greece, on a Union-sponsored tour.

Seventy unionists will be making the 23-day tour which leaves on May 26.

Mr. Bardacke described the many gains won by Histadrut for Israel workers, and noted that Histadrut provides a form of public ownership of many enterprises. Israel is regarded by many experts not only as a "laboristic country" but has been experimenting successfully with various forms of economic and social organization.

During their visit to the Holy Land, the Local 1-S tourists will receive honorary membership cards in Histadrut.

A 28-minute color film on Israel was shown by Mr. Kedum of the Israeli Tourist Bureau. The film showed not only the various trade union centers and activities, but also many of the shrines of all faiths and locales famous since Biblical days.

Representatives of the travel agency arranging the tour briefed the 1-S'ers on flight arrangements, as well as such practical questions as where to shop and get discounts, what custom regulations are, etc.

Members of the Union's Activities Committee were present at the meeting.

## 'Mexican' Meeting Set

A meeting of Unionists joining the Local 1-S trip to Mexico will be held on June 6 at 7:00 P.M. in the Empire Room of Hotel New Yorker.

The Union tourists will receive complete instructions from travel agency representatives regarding the trip which will begin Aug. 5 and last for 15 days.

The visitors to "South of the Border" will all travel on one airplane, Union Administrator Mildred Kaplonski has reported. The tour, which costs \$410, still has room for a few openings for 1-S'ers who want to see something of our good Latin-American neighbor.

## SCME Local Signs First Pact With N. Y. Art Museum

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has signed a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1503, State, County & Municipal Employees, benefiting about 250 workers in technical, operating, security and maintenance departments.

It was the first formal agreement with any New York museum or zoological society by AFSCME, whose Local 1501 has been trying for more than two years to win recognition from the N. Y. Zoological Society. More than 300 workers at the Bronx Zoo and Coney Island Aquarium have been on strike since April 2.

The new contract at the Metropolitan Museum provides for union recognition, retirement benefits, employer-paid insurance, holiday pay, sick leave, seniority, grievance procedures and paid overtime.

## UAW Leader Says Physicians Invite Gov't Interference

OMAHA, NEB.—Organized medicine, through support of the Kerr-Mills law passed by Congress last year, has opened the way to greater government involvement in the "operation, organization and control of medicine," Auto Workers Vice Pres. Leonard Woodcock has warned.

Woodcock told a meeting of the Nebraska State Medical Association that in their "virulent opposition" to placing health care for the aged under social security, they have "accepted an extension of nagging local regulation" of the medical profession.

The Kerr-Mills law provides for federal grants to finance some health care for senior citizens in those states where legislatures appropriate added funds. Aid would be available through public welfare departments which submit applicants to "degrading and humiliating" means tests, said Woodcock.

He characterized the Kerr-Mills approach as "charity medicine, unworthy of America and degrading to those it purports to assist."

He said the Kerr-Mills program is "bound up in red tape . . . which regulates the agencies and institutions that can be used . . . restricts the choice of physician . . . (and) pays doctors on a cut-rate basis."

Woodcock pointed out that the American Public Welfare Assn., composed of welfare administrators from across the country, has joined the Kennedy Administration in support of "the social-insurance rather than the 'means-test' method of financing health care for the aged."

## Watch... and listen to...

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Sponsored by AFL-CIO and National Educational TV and Radio Center

# Local 1-S' Own Union Maid Praises Other Contestants

"My goodness, it wasn't a beauty contest really. We wrote an essay and filled out questionnaires, and answered questions about trade unionism. . . . But it was a wonderful experience, and I think the labor movement could be very proud of the girls there."

So spoke Carol Plumb, of the Little Shop, who was a Local 1-S entry in the recent Union Maid contest. She was one of the finalists in the annual contest sponsored by the N.Y. Union Label Trades.

Carol, whose measurements are 35-23½-35, is something of an old hand at appearing in the public eye. She took part in the RWDSU "queen" contest two years ago, and has been active as an amateur actress and singer. In fact, she loves opera and, sometimes ago, was a "spear carrier" at the Metropolitan or, rather, did a "walk-on" with the Metropolitan chorus.

Carol hopes to continue with her singing and, perhaps, do some writing. She recalls that, as a child, she wanted to be a newspaper reporter or a lady cop.

But life sometimes turns out differently from one's expectations, and for eight years—since she was 16—Carol has worked as a Saturday Only in Macy, and been a Local 1-S member from the start.

When she started work, Carol recalls, she made a "big, handsome 70 cents an hour." In those days, when she first went to work, the Saturday Only was paid "pretty much according to age," she says. "We didn't get any vacation but now, thanks to the Union, I enjoy a three-week vacation."

Carol has worked in the Music Dept., on the Main Floor, in Blouses, and has been the last 18 months in the Little Shop, which she likes best.

In these years of experience on the job, she has become a loyal and active union member. She took a very active part in the '56 strike, where she marched and sang with great enthusiasm. And she recalls, with a smile, some of the picketline songs, with their humor and irony.

But there is also a very serious streak in this young lady with the chestnut hair and hazel-green eyes. She is a volunteer Red Cross Nurse's Aide, a member of the Hacowa chapter of Deborah Hospital, of the St. George Society, of the NAACP and has had the opportunity to attend a number of civil liberties conferences.

Despite all these activities—here, certainly, is a young lady who likes to keep busy—she manages to do a fair amount of reading, especially historical fiction and biography, but not forgetting "Local 1-S News" and the "RWDSU Record."

Carol was born, raised and educated in Staten Island where she was graduated from Wagner College. She learned her earliest unionism there, too, because her grandmother was a railroad union member for 30 years.

Participating in the Union Maid contest was a lot of fun, Carol says. She was given a variety of gifts, and the judges were very kind, she notes. But she returned once again to a theme she had remarked on before: that all the attractive, well-groomed young ladies in the contest, from so many different kinds of unions, were a credit to the labor movement, and the labor movement was, indeed, a credit to them.

## SAFETY EXAM

Here's an exam you can't afford to flunk. Your replies answer the question, "Just how safe is your home?" Prepared by the National Safety Council, the checklist below pinpoints 20 danger spots in the home—danger spots or safety spots, as the case may be. The questions cover things to look for, things to fix and safety practices to follow. The Council suggests that you keep score, crediting yourself with five points for each "Yes" on your list. If your score is between 80 and 100, safety is in your bones. If it's between 55 and 75, you ought to be more careful. If it's below 55, call the ambulance!

### DO YOU SEE IT?

- |   | Yes   | No    |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Do you look for tripping hazards—toys left around, mops and brooms, other clutter? <i>And put them away?</i>     | ..... | ..... |
| 2. Do you light your way <i>ahead</i> of you into rooms, up and down stairs?  | ..... | ..... |
| 3. Do you look at the label before taking <i>any</i> medicine?  | ..... | ..... |
| 4. Do you seek out fire hazards—rubbish in attic or basement, bundles of oily rags? <i>And clear them out?</i>      | ..... | ..... |
| 5. Do you watch for cleaning supplies, insecticides, medicines, matches, etc., left where children can get at them? | ..... | ..... |
| 6. Do you look to see that all window screens, guards, storm sashes, etc., are securely fastened?                   | ..... | ..... |
| 7. Do you see that cigarettes, matches, etc., are <i>really</i> out?  | ..... | ..... |

### DO YOU FIX IT?

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. Have you anchored small throw rugs, repaired worn carpets?                                   | ..... |
| 2. Are broken stairways, loose floor boards, wobbly railings, <i>promptly</i> repaired?         | ..... |
| 3. Do you have flues, pipes and chimneys inspected regularly—and repaired?                      | ..... |
| 4. Do you keep <i>all</i> electrical equipment in good repair and discard or repair worn cords? | ..... |
| 5. Is there a <i>secure and adequate</i> hand hold or grab bar over bathtub or shower?          | ..... |
| 6. Are all gas burners adjusted and <i>free from leaks</i> ?                                    | ..... |

### DO YOU PRACTICE IT?

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Do you always use a <i>solid ladder</i> (or step stool) instead of a makeshift, such as a pile of boxes or an unsteady chair? | ..... |
| 2. A fairly universal rule of fire prevention is NO SMOKING IN BED! Do you always observe it?                                    | ..... |
| 3. Do you always disconnect electric appliances?   | ..... |
| 4. Do you always keep garage doors <i>open</i> when running the motor inside?  | ..... |
| 5. Do you always provide adequate ventilation in any room where portable gas or oil heaters are used?                            | ..... |
| 6. Do you keep the yard clear of broken glass, nail-studded boards, garden tools, other litter?                                  | ..... |



BEAUTY, BRAINS AND GOOD TRADE UNIONISTS! The 13 finalists in the recent Union Maid contest are shown above, backstopped by representatives from their respective unions. That's our own Carol Plumb, third from left. Winner of the contest was Ruby Gordon of Hotel Local 6, who is sixth from the left. Winner of the 1960 contest is to her left, in front of bespectacled Harry Avrutin, sec.-treas. of the N.Y. Union Label Dept. which sponsored the annual contest.



# New Wage Law to Add 3,600,000 Workers



**PRESIDENT KENNEDY** gives AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany the pen with which he signed the new minimum wage-extended coverage law, as a souvenir. They are flanked by political leaders who spearheaded the fight in Congress for the law.

For the first time since the original Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938, some 3,600,000 workers in the retail and other industries will be protected by federal legal wage minimums and overtime provisions.

The long-sought improvements in the law, which was last improved in 1956, was heralded as a great victory by labor and the Kennedy Administration, despite reservations about the time lapses necessary before some of the law's provisions go into effect.

After bitter political controversy, both Houses of Congress approved a new minimum of \$1.15 an hour to go into effect Sept. 3. A \$1.25 minimum will go into effect two years later. Some 24,000,000 workers presently covered by the law will come under these provisions.

Most observers agreed, however, that the most significant sections of the new law were those which added a large group of workers for large retail, construction, transit, gas station and shipping companies.

The step-ups for retail and other newly-covered workers will take effect in this way:

- September, 1961: \$1 an hour minimum wage; no overtime provision.
- September, 1963: \$1 an hour minimum; time-and-a-half after 44 hours.
- September, 1964: \$1.15

an hour minimum; time-and-a-half after 40 hours.

Thus, the principle of equal coverage under the minimum wage law will gradually be established. This is a principle for which the labor movement—and particularly the RWDSU and other unions in the retail and service industries—has fought for 23 years.

However, in its new contract, Local 1-S has won a \$1.25 minimum wage, retroactive to Feb. 1, 1961, which will go up to \$1.30 an hour on Feb. 1, 1962.

New York State currently has a retail minimum wage law of \$1.00 an hour.

It is expected that the increase in legal minimum wages will benefit additional millions of workers through a "balloon effect." That is, as employers are forced to increase the pay of low-wage workers, they are expected to maintain wage differentials now in effect, meaning raises for higher paid workers.

"I think we can move from this improvement into greater gains in the months and years to come," declared Pres. John F. Kennedy.

AFL-CIO Pres. George Meany hailed the "realistic improvements" as a "long step forward." He pledged, however, that the law is "by no means the end of our efforts in behalf of the 'working poor.'"

The bill must be followed, he

said, by other strides toward the elimination of starvation wages and sweatshop hours from all phases of American life.

Laundry, hotel and restaurant workers were cut out of the final drafts of the new minimum wage law in an effort to win enough votes, particularly in the House of Representatives, to secure passage of the law.

It is estimated that of the 24 million presently covered, 1,900,000 will receive wage increases under the law to \$1.15. Some 660,000 workers of those newly covered, it is estimated, will benefit from the new \$1.00 an hour minimum for them.

The Local 1-S position has been that every American worker, in the retail industry and elsewhere, should be covered by an immediate \$1.25 minimum. This position was based on a careful economic analysis, as well as on trade union and humanitarian grounds.

Since the \$1.00 wage minimum was passed in 1956, Local 1-S members have sent thousands of letters to their Congressmen urging passage of a good minimum wage law. Scores of Union members joined delegations to Washington, or attended legislative conferences at which higher legal minimums and retail coverage were primary demands.

However, the increase in the House of some 22 conservative votes, following the November elections, caused concessions which liberal and labor forces considered necessary to achieve the law.

Somewhat simplified, the law will cover workers in retail businesses which gross \$1,000,000 or more a year, if \$250,000 of the business went across state lines.

## RETIRED

May 1, 1961

Name	Dept.
Helmi Pietila	RMMH-6
Catherine Herian	MC7-52
Paul Issleib	HNP-13
Merriell Gussow	CVA-12
Charles Van Tassell	918-21
Mary Dalmiau	127-73
Rae Goldfarb	65-57
Edith Klein	38-55
Edith Bove	15-551
Clara Gruber	15-508
Kathleen Plath	154-54
Martha Feist	126-50

**Best of Luck  
And Keep in Touch!**

## Labor Speaks Best Overseas For Freedom, Says Catherwood

JAMESTOWN, N. Y. — The cold war may be won in the union halls of America, N. Y. State Industrial Commissioner M. P. Catherwood said last week.

Addressing the convention of the N. Y. Union Label and Service Trades Dept., Commissioner Catherwood said:

"Our American unions can develop knowledge and understanding abroad of our American system, and of our worker's high standards and rights of self-determination.

"Unions, by the strong sympathies which they hold for each other throughout the world, can demonstrate the human values realized in a free society far better than any government propaganda ever devised.

"One might even say that the next figurative Battle of Waterloo may well be won, not on the playing fields of Eton, but in the union halls of America."

"Today the union label stands for more than the purely economic interests of the organized working men and women," the Commissioner told the gathering.

"It now represents broader objectives and more comprehensive

achievements. These goals and accomplishments generally lie in the fields of general citizen and community interests—not only at the municipal level but including state and national levels and now, increasingly, the international sphere," he said.

An estimated 25,000 people visited a three-day labor-management exhibition held in connection with the Union Label convention.

Union Administrator Frank Milza represented Local 1-S at the convention.

## Flash!

The Union wishes to thank all those who donated blood, or attempted to do so, to the Local 1-S—Macy Blood Bank.

These contributors, as in past years, make possible a continuing blood program which meets a vital need. Thanks!

Look for our big picture spread and story on the Blood Bank in our next issue.

## Boom! Bang! Ah-Choo! Walls Come Tumblin' Down!

The walls are toppling down at . . . boom! . . . Local 1-S. With huge sledge hammers and crow bars, a wrecking crew . . . crunch-ch . . . began tearing down most of the interior walls of the Union headquarters on May 10 in preparation for extensive alterations.

As plaster walls crumbled and dust flew . . . ah-choo, ah-choo! Union officers and staff have been seeking shelter from the . . . bang, boom, crunch-ch!

Union Administrators are presently jammed into the general office but . . . s-s-s, boom, zing! if you have any job problems, please come down.

Regular Wednesday night counseling will also continue during the . . . zing, zing! . . . alterations which are expected to be completed in several months.

The dusty period, we are told, will definitely be over by the time this issue of the Union newspaper reached you.

## PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Couch, two club chairs, slip covers and drapes. Good condition. \$75 for all. Call FO. 5-8615 after 3:00 P.M.

FOR SALE—Emerson Quiet Kool airconditioner. 1-ton, 7 1/2-ampere. 1960 model, barely used. \$85, must sell. Call TA 2-4976 from 9 to 5 P.M.

FOR SALE—Full-size modern dining room set. Honeytone table with six chairs, buffet, china closet server. In well-kept condition, reasonable. Call FI 7-5311 anytime.

FOR SALE—Gilbert Master Building Erector Set in excellent condition. 3 motors; can build thousands of models. Over 2,000 pieces. Original cost \$125. Sacrificing for \$50. Call HO 4-1243 anytime.

FOR SALE—Electric Guitar with amplifier ("Fender"). Never used. Cost over \$200. Sell for \$150, with instruction books. Also electric Stradolin organ with sheet music and bench. Never used. Cost \$100. Sell for \$50. Call FO 7-6634 after 6:00 P.M.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day) when the Union Office is closed. Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

Full information on benefits and regulations can be obtained from the health plan consultant at the union. Members are also asked to remind their doctors that all claim forms must be returned to the Local 1-S office.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

## Visit to Deborah Set for July 9

The Hacowa chapter of Deborah Hospital will sponsor a visit to Deborah Hospital on Sunday, July 9.

All members of Local 1-S are cordially invited to visit the famed institution, which is located near Fort Dix, N. J.

Local 1-S has contributed a bed to Deborah which is internationally known for its work to cure

chest diseases and, in recent years, for its remarkable heart surgery.

New York trade unions have been traditionally strong supporters of the institution which neither charges any fees or asks patients to provide information on personal finances.

Local 1-S'ers who wish to visit the Hospital are asked to fill out the following coupon immediately.

"Deborah"

Local 1-S

290 Seventh Avenue  
New York 1, N. Y.

I wish to join the free trip to Deborah Hospital on July 9. Please reserve a seat for me on the chartered bus.

NAME .....

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